

# Natural Resources

- **What are Natural Resources?**
  - Natural resources include both the individual components or features of the environment (geographic formations, soil characteristics, wildlife, etc.) and the ecosystem in which they exist. An ecosystem can be defined as a biological community, of interacting organisms including human beings, and their living and non-living environment.
  - Examples of Natural Resources
    - Wetlands
    - Streams, Creeks, and Delaware River
    - Woodlands and Trees
    - Soils
    - Plants and Wildlife
- **What is Protected Open Space?**
  - ***Publicly owned open space***, land owned by a land trust or conservation organization, land under a permanent easement or deed restriction, and homeowners' association open space.
  - ***Unprotected open space*** describes all other privately owned undeveloped land.
- **What is tree canopy?**
  - ***Tree Canopy*** is a measurement which encompasses the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that shelter the ground from the view above.
- **Why is tree canopy important?**
  - Trees serve a variety of purposes including removal of pollutants from the air, soil, and water; cool down surrounding areas; carbon sequestration (removing carbon from the atmosphere); increased property values; etc.
- **What is a watershed?**
  - The land area that drains to a stream, lake, or river – affects the water quality in the water body it surrounds.
- **What is a Best Management Practice?**
  - ***Best Management Practice***: Devices, practices, or methods that are used to manage stormwater runoff to minimize or mitigate the degradation of watershed resources.
- **What is a brownfield?**
  - ***Brownfield***: a property which may be contaminated or perceived to be contaminated from a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.
  - Examples of Brownfields: Former gas stations, former dry cleaners, former dump sites, chemical plants, etc.
- What does it mean to remediate?
  - ***Remediate***: to restore by reversing or stopping environmental damage.

# Energy and Efficiencies

- **What is combustion free renewable energy?**
  - ***Combustion Free Renewable Energy:*** is energy free of fossil fuels which has been derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed.
- **What is an Energy Conservation Measure?**
  - ***Energy Conservation Measure:*** upgrades, retrofits, repairs, and replacements that can be implemented to make buildings and systems more energy efficient
- **What is Benchmarking?**
  - ***Benchmarking:*** assessing and analyzing the energy use in a building and then comparing it to past performance, similar building, or modeled simulations of a reference building at a certain standard.
- **What is Scope 1 Emissions?**
  - ***Scope 1 Emissions:*** Direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization.
    - Ex. Fuel combustion from boilers, furnaces, vehicles
- **What is Scope 2 Emissions?**
  - ***Scope 2 Emissions:*** Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Although scope 2 emissions physically occur at the facility where they are generated, they are accounted for the organizations greenhouse gas inventory because they are the result of the organizations' energy use.

# Transportation

- **What counts are walking infrastructure?**
  - Sidewalks, trails, wayfinding, and other structures that increase active walking transportation and increase pedestrian safety
- **What counts as biking infrastructure?**
  - Bike paths, bike lanes, trails, designated bike routes, sharrows, and other structures or paths that increase active transportation for bicycling and increase safety.
- **What is Scope 1 Emissions?**
  - ***Scope 1 Emissions:*** Direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization.
    - Ex. Fuel combustion from your car.
- **What is Scope 2 Emissions?**
  - ***Scope 2 Emissions:*** Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Although scope 2 emissions physically occur at the facility where they are generated, they are accounted for the organizations greenhouse gas inventory because they are the result of the organizations' energy use.
    - Ex. Electricity purchased for charging the County's electric vehicles
- **What are small combustion engines?**
  - An engine that runs from the explosion ignition from gasoline or other fossil fuels.

# Zero Waste

- **What is Zero Waste?**
  - Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.
- **What is a diversion rate?**
  - Diversion rates measure (usually by weight) the portion of waste not sent to the landfill or incinerator.
- **What is Universal Collection?**
  - All properties must offer recycling and compost collection.
- **What is organics collection?**
  - Organic waste is any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or an animal.
    - Ex. Compost, leaves, food scraps, etc.
- **What is Scope 1 Emissions?**
  - ***Scope 1 Emissions:*** Direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization.
    - Ex. Emissions from the trash trucks.
- **What is Scope 2 Emissions?**
  - ***Scope 2 Emissions:*** Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. Although scope 2 emissions physically occur at the facility where they are generated, they are accounted for the organizations greenhouse gas inventory because they are the result of the organizations' energy use.
    - Ex. Electricity used at the landfill for lighting
- **What is Scope 3 Emissions?**
  - Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the company itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that its indirectly responsible for, up and down its value chain.
    - Ex. Emissions from the landfill

# Climate Resiliency

- **What is Climate Resiliency?**
  - Climate resiliency is the ability to successfully cope with and recover quickly from the impacts of climate change while preventing those impacts from getting worse.
- **What are the climate hazards?**
  - A physical process or event that can harm human health, livelihoods, or natural resources.
- **What is the green economy?**
  - UN- Environment Program defines a green economy as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. Growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **What is a green job?**
  - At this time, there is no standardized definition of green jobs. Delaware County is seeking to establish a clear definition of green jobs in the next few years to ensure compliance with regional, state, and federal regulations.
- **What is infrastructure?**
  - Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.
    - Ex. Roads, bridges, power supplies)
- **What is smart development?**
  - Also called smart growth covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.

# Health and Wellness

- **Who regulates air quality?**
  - In the United States, air is regulated under the Clean Air Act of 1970. Under this Act, enforcement of air quality falls under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in PA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP).
- **What does it mean to ensure just and equitable clean, clear, and healthy air?**
  - Equitable ensures that we are providing equal access to all people. Just ensures that we are not just providing accommodations but serving to remove the barriers that are currently prohibiting equitable access to clean, clear, and healthy air.
- **Where does water come from in Delaware County?**
  - In Delaware County, Aqua America and Chester Water Authority (CWA) are the largest public water providers servicing the County. Aqua America sources its water from Chester, Ridley, Crum, Pickering, Perkiomen and Neshaminy creeks, and the Schuylkill River, while CWA gets water from the Octoraro Reservoir and the Susquehanna River.
- **What is a food desert?**
  - ***Food desert:*** an area where people have very limited access to healthy, affordable food.
- **What is the DCHD?**
  - The Delaware County Health Department was launched in April of 2022 with a mission to build healthy and thriving communities.